PREFACE

Health is the principal asset of human being. Ever since the emergence of man on the earth disease and illness have become perennial problems for mankind. The concept of health of the tribals and their medical system always involve social, cultural and environmental issues. In this research work, an attempt has been made to study the reproductive health seeking behavior of the Boro-Kachari women. People in every society, whether simple or complex, adapt to their environment by way of combining various biological and socio-cultural resources. The fact that diseases are related to biological and socio-cultural factors has resulted in the convergence of medical and anthropological interests. To understand the aspects of reproductive health seeking behavior of the people, an attempt has been made to find out the general pattern of the different type of treatment and healing options during the course of reproductive illness, and the perceptions regarding the outcome of such treatment and healing interventions among the Boro-Kachari women of North Guwahati area.

Outline of the work under different chapters of the thesis are given below:

Chapter – I which is the Introduction, an attempt has been made to introduce the background of the topic in its proper perspective. It embodies discussion on the problem under study, objectives, hypothesis, sample, rationale for selection, scope of the study, fieldwork and methodology and review of literature.

Chapter – II provides a brief outline of the Bodos of Assam where their history, origin, migration, socio-cultural life of the Bodos is mentioned. In addition, a descriptive account of the Boro-Kacharis of North Guwahati area is also given. It also gives an outline of the health facilities available in North Guwahati area.

Chapter – III it deals with the concept and approaches of reproductive health and role of National Rural Health Mission in reproductive health.

Chapter – IV contains elaborate discussions on traditional health practices as well as reproductive health seeking behaviour of Boro-Kachari women in North Guwahati area.

Chapter – V presents an overall summary, major findings and conclusion of the study.

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